

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 175623

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW NIACT IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 175623

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:XGDS

TAGS: OVIP (GERALD R. FORD)

SUBJECT: ACCREDITATION OF WHITE HOUSE TRAVELLING PRESS
FOR PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO POLAND

1. WHITE HOUSE AND DEPARTMENT HAVE CAREFULLY EVALUATED
EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATION IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF WARSAW 4727.
WE CONCLUDE THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID PUBLICITY
ON ANY REQUEST FOR RUSSELL HILL'S VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL
FROM PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO POLAND. WE DEEM THE RESULTING
DOMESTIC POLITICAL FALLOUT AS UNACCEPTABLE, UNNECESSARY,
AND COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

2. AMBASSADOR SHOULD RAISE SUBJECT WITH VICE MINSTER
SPASOWSKI ASAP.

3. AMBASSADOR SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO SPASOWSKI THAT
RUSSELL HILL IS AN ACCREDITED WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT.
HE IS NOT A POLISH SPECIALIST, NOR DOES HE SPEAK POLISH.
THE PURPOSE OF HIS PRESENCE IN POLAND WOULD BE STRICTLY
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PAGE 02 STATE 175623

TO COVER THE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW
WHAT WOULD RESULT FROM HILL'S REPORTAGE, WE SEE THIS AS AN
OPPORTUNITY FOR THE POLISH AUTHORITIES TO DEMONSTRATE
THAT THEY ARE IMPLEMENTING THE SPIRIT OF CSCE.

4. AMBASSADOR MIGHT WISH TO REMIND SPASOWSKI THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN WORKING VERY CLOSELY TO ACCOMODATE EACH OTHER'S NEEDS AND DESIRES. EVEN THOUGH IT IS OBVIOUSLY POLAND'S RIGHT TO REFUSE A VISA TO HILL, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE POLISH AUTHORITIES WILL BE FORTHCOMING ON THIS MATTER.

5. AMBASSADOR MIGHT ALSO WISH TO RECALL TO SPASOWSKI'S ATTENTION THE FACT THAT DURING GIEREK'S VISIT LAST OCTOBER, WE ACCEPTED AS MEMBERS OF ENTOURAGE SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS WITH WHOM WE HAD PROBLEMS. WE WERE FORTHCOMING IN INTERESTS OF A SUCCESSFUL VISIT. FRELEK'S ASSISTANT WAS ONE CASE IN POINT.

6. WE ARE TRULY SURPRISED THAT HILL'S VISA SHOULD BE AN ISSUE. WE HAVE NO FLEXIBILITY CONSIDERING HILL'S BONE FIDES AS A RESPECTED MEMBER OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS CORPS.

7. FYI: THE POLISH EMBASSY ON JULY 24, IN VIEW OF AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI'S EVENING DEPARTURE FOR POLAND, APPROACHED THE DEPARTMENT TELEPHONICALLY SEEKING OUR REACTION. THE EMBASSY OFFICER WAS GIVEN EXPLICIT EXPLANATION OF THE PROBLEM AS WE SEE IT. HE LATER CALLED TO SAY THAT AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI HAD SENT AN IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM TO WARSAW WHICH WE BELIEVE EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR OUR POINT OF VIEW.

8. IF POLES REFUSE VISA TO HILL, WHICH WE DOUBT, WE WOULD HAVE TO REGRET PUBLICALLY THEIR ACTION EVEN WHILE IMPLYING THAT THIS WOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF AN EXCHANGE AT HIGH LEVELS DURING THE VISIT. END FYI. KISSINGER

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